

**Statement on the Death of  
Jerome Robbins**

*July 29, 1998*

Hillary and I are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jerome Robbins. Like so many Americans, our lives were enriched immeasurably by his artistic genius. Through his brilliant choreography, he brought the joy and passion of the human experience to millions, lifting American theater and dance to new heights. And in the treasury of timeless masterpieces he leaves behind—from “Fancy Free” and “On the Town” to “West Side Story” and “Fiddler on the Roof”—his creative spirit will live forever.

**Memorandum on Outreach Actions  
to Increase Employment of Adults  
with Disabilities**

*July 29, 1998*

*Memorandum for the Attorney General, the  
Secretary of Health and Human Services, the  
Chair of the Equal Opportunity Commission,  
the Administrator of the Small Business  
Administration*

*Subject: Outreach Actions to Increase  
Employment of Adults with Disabilities*

As we commemorate the eighth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), we have much to celebrate. This landmark civil rights law is making it possible for millions of Americans to participate more fully in society—through employment, access to public facilities, and participation in community and leisure activities—and to do their part to make us a stronger and better country. At the same time, we are reminded that significant challenges remain. Far too many of the 30 million working-age adults with disabilities are still unemployed, especially those with significant disabilities.

To address employment barriers for people with disabilities, I issued Executive Order 13078 on March 13, 1998, establishing the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. The Task Force will issue in November the first in a series of reports on what the Federal Government can do to help bring the employment rate of

adults with disabilities into line with that of the general population. The Task Force already has identified important ways to reduce barriers to work for people with disabilities, and I hereby direct you to act on these findings.

First, although awareness of the ADA is increasing among persons with disabilities, employers, and the general public, too many people still are not aware of their rights and responsibilities under the ADA. There is a particular need to educate the small business community, which employs most of the private work force and includes the vast majority of employers.

I therefore direct the Attorney General, the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to expand public education regarding the requirements of the ADA to employers, employees, and others whose rights may be affected, with special attention to small businesses and underserved communities, such as racial and language minorities that may not have ready access to information that is already available.

Second, lack of adequate private health insurance options is a disincentive to leave Social Security programs for work. Few private health plans cover the personal assistance and other types of services that make work possible for many people with disabilities. Recognizing this problem, I proposed and the Congress passed a new Medicaid option last year that allows people with disabilities to buy into Medicaid without having to receive cash assistance. A number of States have expressed an interest in offering this new option and the Secretary of Health and Human Services has been working with them to do so. Much more, however, needs to be done to increase the public outreach and education activities about these important laws and options.

I therefore direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue to take all necessary actions to inform Governors, State legislators, State Medicaid directors, consumer organizations, employers, providers, and other interested parties about section 4733 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.